THE TASK FORCE ON CLEANLINESS AND SECURITY IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE PRESENTS REPORT 10-004 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **Creative Design Strategy for Litter Containers/Cigarette Receptacles**

   That Public works staff be directed to research new creative options to increase usage of cigarette receptacles and litter containers and that they be authorized to investigate involving local artist in these projects as part of this strategy.

2. **Daily Alleyway Flushing Costing Request**

   That Public Works Staff be directed to report back to the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core at their next meeting with a costing on daily alleyway flushing in the Core downtown areas.
3. **Request for representation from By-law and Parking Services at Task Force meetings**

That By-law and Parking services be requested to appoint a staff representative to attend future meetings of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core.

4. **Day Long Strategic Planning Session**

That the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core hold an all day strategic meeting for creating an action plan.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

(a) The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Councillor Bratina.

(b) **Changes to the Agenda (Item 2)**

The Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda,

(i) That a discussion on social housing be added as Item 6.2

(ii) That the information update, Downtown Hamilton Cleanliness Program (OWM10-026)(Ward 2) be added as Item 6.3

On a Motion, the agenda was approved as amended.

(c) **Declarations of Interest (Item 3)**

There were none.

(d) **Minutes of Previous Meetings (Item 4)**

John Hawker pointed out two minor errors in the Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2010 be approved as amended.

(e) **PRESENTATIONS**

none
(f) Updates from Last Meeting/Other Business

(i) Update on McNab Street Terminal, Gary Moore (no copy) (6.1)

Gary Moore, Director of Engineering Services, indicated that the McNab Street terminal is running late. Staff suggested that the completion date will likely be the first week of October rather than the end of August.

Staff discussed the major obstacles behind the delays in the McNab Street Terminal. One of the major issues is heating the pavement. There also have been a lot of complications encountered with maintaining pedestrian access to the area as well as implementing the heated pavement with ‘as-is’ infrastructure.

Staff are working with HSR in terms of scheduling things for the set up of the terminal. Staff indicated that they are trying to coordinate the overlap between the end of construction and when HSR comes in to set up their computers, etc. Staff indicated that they would be doing this to keep the transition period as short as possible. They indicated that they are probably looking at the third week of October to have HSR on the site to get it ready.

Staff indicated that a reasonable expectation is that McNab Street terminal will be open at the end of October.

Chair Bratina indicated that there is an issue with the closing of traffic lanes on King and Main which has caused an issue for the downtown area.

Staff indicated that there will be two bays at the McNab terminal. The crossings between the bays are all raised up to the sidewalk level. Through traffic is not promoted, only cars going into the underground parking and the buses should be going through the terminal. It will remain a salt free area because of the heated sidewalks.

Chair Bratina indicated that it was a fabulous project and inquired if they were close to budget on it. Staff indicated that they are very close to being on budget even though they have encountered difficulties. Chair Bratina asked what the major projects they are working on. Staff provided an update on major projects that are currently underway for the information of the Task Force.

Staff indicated that they will be finishing York Boulevard sometime in the start of October. They will be then be staging the two-way traffic on York which may take sometime.
Staff discussed the library and the farmers market. There was an indication that the Farmers Market will be opening in January.

Chair Bratina tried to figure out how much money was being invested in the downtown area. Staff suggested that a ballpark figure was somewhere around $30 million dollars. Staff also indicated that they have installed bathrooms in the downtown area in response to a need for them.

Chair Bratina asked about left turns off of King Street and indicated that there is a need for another left turn. Staff indicted that they will have to wait to see what LRT wants to do before addressing this. In the short term staff indicated that there isn’t anything that can be done. Staff indicated that they may want to look at the two waying of Bay Street again. Staff pointed out that there is an extensive model being done based on the LRT that will show traffic flows that could serve as a tool to help in the decision making process.

Chair Bratina thanked Gary Moore for his update. The Chair indicated that the Task Force was very grateful for the update.

The update from Gary Moore was received.

(ii) *Added item Social Housing Update, Robert McKnight (no copy)*

*Added Item 6.2*

Chair Bratina asked in light of the Tamil Tiger ship coming to British Columbia if Hamilton is at all involved in bringing refugees to the area.

Staff indicated that they are often involved although they don’t have a formalized process for involvement.

Chair Bratina talked about the Wesley Centre closure and the positive impact it has had on the Ferguson street area. Chair Bratina indicated that this is due to the success of the staff to work with people and getting them into transitional housing.

Staff indicated that they have had great success in this area and they are expecting another $2.5 million in funding for transitional housing because of a recent government announcement.

Chair Bratina indicated that he has been talking with an individual who has been living out of his car. The individual suggested getting mobile homes to house people in similar situations. Staff indicated that it is better to get some form of traditional housing.
Chair Bratina asked if there was a cheaper way of building affordable housing staff indicated that the cost is around $150,000-175,000 per unit.

Chair Bratina talked about an individual that came into the patio of a downtown establishment and began hurling around obscenities. He questioned staff as to what they would have to do in order to help individuals like that. Staff indicated that policing, cleanliness and animation are all aspects of economic development that need to be addressed to make a more productive downtown.

Chair Bratina indicated that there is a lot of lost revenue because the downtown area isn’t economical reaching its potential. Chair Bratina pointed to issues of cleanliness and safety as the main obstacles towards getting higher tax revenues from businesses in the downtown.

Hawker indicated that at the Jackson Square Mall they do not allow security guards’ to go outside at anytime because of safety and liability issues. Chair Bratina indicated that this is a slightly different topic wanting to keep on topic.

Chair Bratina suggested the McKnight that he is very please with the dialogue between Social Housing and Homelessness and the Task Force and that this is a chain of dialogue that they need to keep open.

Chair Bratina thanked McKnight for the Update.

The update from Robert McKnight was received.

(iii) **Downtown Hamilton Cleanliness Program (OWM10-026)(Ward 2)**

(Added Item 6.3)

Chair Bratina asked about how the budgeting in the Information Report works. Staff responded that it is based on how much money was spent to date with the remainder being scheduled for the rest of the year.

Braithwaite indicated that they have seen a good response in the amount of service seen in the downtown area. Chair Bratina indicated that he has seen them downtown quite a lot and asked if it was an increase in the work being done. Staff indicated that it was more of a scheduling issue and that problem areas are being targeted more giving the impression of increased response.

Chair Bratina asked about the litter containers. Chair Bratina inquired if there were more people putting their household garbage in the City garbage cans. Staff indicated that there have been an increased number of incidents of this city wide.
Chair Bratina asked if they could increase enforcement. Staff indicated that it is an enforcement issue with limited By-law enforcement staff. Staff indicated that they are pursuing enforcement and working on trying to catch offenders.

Chair Bratina asked how we are comparing to other municipalities. Staff indicated that they do not have details on what other municipalities are doing however we are leaders in approaching the 60% waste diversion rates.

Chair Bratina suggested that Information Reports on the one bag garbage limit should come to the Task Force so that they can provide support if budget increases are needed to target offenders.

John Hawker provided an update on cigarette receptacles indicating that more will be installed in the downtown area in the next several weeks. Committee members indicated that there should be better signage on cigarette receptacles.

Chair Bratina suggested painting them like cigarettes. The Task Force indicated that they supported this idea.

Chair Bratina asked staff to discuss the Street Furniture. Staff indicated that the issue that is holding up the kiosk part of the Street Furniture program is the signage issue. Staff indicated that by-law enforcement isn’t represented at the meetings of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core.

The Information Report (OWM10-026), Downtown Hamilton Cleanliness Program (Ward 2) was received.

(g) Other Business

(i) Ambassador Program Update

Chair Bratina provided an update on the Ambassador Program indicating that they have managed to get the funds requested at the previous meeting by the B.I.A’s through accessing unallocated funds.

(ii) Economic Summit Update

Staff provided an update on the recent Economic Summit, in relation to the need to attract more young people to Hamilton, bringing more business to downtown Hamilton. Staff indicated that they have done some surveys on the employment in the downtown area. Indicating that they have a person going door to door and asking how many employees work in the downtown area. With a 96% response rate they are now seeing that...
around 22,000 people are employed in the core downtown area. Staff indicated that they hope to have a major report on this will be ready by October.

Staff updated that they will be doing the downtown office survey. The last survey was done in 2008 when they surveyed every building over 5,000 square feet, the vacancy rate was at that time was 15%. Staff indicated that the vacancy rate has gone down and they will the exact numbers after the survey is completed.

Staff spoke in more detail about the Economic Summit and the need to attract more people to the Hamilton area. Indicating that the young professionals are not deterred about coming to the downtown area however they would like to see more events and attractions going on.

Staff indicated that they need to get the message out to people and market the downtown area and that there isn’t enough staffing to market the area.

(iii) Strategic Action Plan Discussion

There was a large discussion on setting Downtown revitalization as a primary goal of City Council. There was some discussion on having the Committee report directly to COW. There was also some discussion on creating a plan with achievable goals and expectations for the Downtown Core by 2015

There was some discussion on how to go about arranging this and in the end it was decide to investigate options after the meeting with the intent of moving forward with the retreat in late September or early October.

(iv) Police Update

Staff Sergeant Cox gave an update on the Police’s efforts in the Downtown area. He indicted that there are less breeches now because those on probation have learned that there is a large police presence in the downtown area.

The police have sent some of the people back to their home areas for where they have outstanding warrants. Police are working to move some of these people back to their home areas. The Sergeant indicating that they are having some success with removing problem individuals from the area.

Sergeant Cox indicated that they do attempt to stop people who are emotionally disturbed. Indicating that they do apprehend them and then take them to a medical centre for evaluation. This way police help address
the need of the individual to access help as well as keep the Downtown area safe.

There was some discussion on the Provincial Funding for the ACTION plan. Sergeant Cox indicated that while the funding isn’t guaranteed the Police are committed to continuing the program.

(h) Adjournment

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Councillor Bob Bratina, Chair

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
August 20, 2010